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Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
(ILGWU)

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11-30-1928

## Justice (Vol. 10, Iss. 35)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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## Justice (Vol. 10, Iss. 35)

### Keywords

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

### Comments

*Justice* was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

"My righteous-  
ness I hold fast,  
and will not let  
it go."

—Job 37:8

# JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

"Workers  
of the world  
unite! You  
have nothing to  
lose but your  
chains."

Vol. X. No. 35.

JERSEY CITY, N. J., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1928

PRICE 3 CENTS

## All New York Locals Tender Banquet to Pres. Schlesinger

Whole Labor Movement Will Be  
Represented

The New York Joint Board of the Cloak and Dressmakers' Union is making arrangements for a big popular dinner to be tendered to Bro. Benjamin Schlesinger in honor of his election to the presidency of the I. L. G. W. U.

The arrangements committee, which consists of Brothers Harry Wander, L. Bartkovsky, M. Kaufman, N. Gordon, M. Rabinoff, M. Kinsky, E. Mossani and J. Aronoff, decided that the banquet take place on Friday, December 7, at the Park View Palace, Fifth Avenue and 110th Street. All the locals of the I. L. G. W. U. in New York City, a great many shop chairmen and representatives of the general labor movement will be present.

A ticket to this dinner will cost only \$2.00, and, as Bro. Wander, secretary of the banquet, informs us, four hundred tickets had been sold already to individual members and to locals.

## Great Meeting Greets Hochman, Amdur and Breslaw In Boston

Big Gathering Voices Enthusiasm for International

The big mass-meeting held by the cloakmakers and dressmakers of Boston on Thursday evening last, November 22, brought out emphatically the fact that the local workers are fast realizing the treachery of the Communist adventurers, and, having profited by the experience of the New York organization, will not permit the Moscow agents to ruin their own locals.

Notwithstanding the fact that the meeting hall was "picketed" on all sides by Communist henchmen who were attempting to bully the workers into staying away from the meeting, the big Association Hall was crowded to capacity long before the meeting was opened and many had to be turned away for lack of space.

When the chairman, Bro. A. Grossman, declared in his opening remarks that "judging from this attendance it is safe to say that we still have a union in Boston," he was greeted by an outburst of applause. This applause was the best reply the Boston workers could give to the traducers of the Union who, for some weeks past, have been diligently spreading the "news" all over Boston that the cloakmakers and the dressmakers have deserted the International and have fallen completely into the clutches of the union-wrecking crew.

Vice-president Amdur, manager of the Boston Joint Board, spoke first and received a warm and cordial welcome. "I have never doubted," he said in part, "that our Union is alive, and this meeting should convince all the doubting Thomases that our Union still lives and shall live." He launched into a description of the destructive Communist tactics for the

## A.F. of L. Convention In New Orleans Pledges Aid To Our International

New Orleans Gathering Adopts Unanimously  
Friendly Resolution Proposed by I. L. G. W. U.  
Delegates — President Schlesinger Deeply Im-  
pressed With Sympathetic Attitude of Con-  
vention Officers and Delegates.

The 48th annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, meeting in New Orleans, like many other Federation conventions in the past, displayed its feeling of close kinship to the ladies' garment workers' organization by giving its approval without a dissenting voice to a resolution calling upon the Executive Council "to give the I. L. G. W. U. all cooperation and assistance to complete successfully the task of renewing agreements," and "to help reinforce the position and prestige of this union in

the trades over which it has jurisdiction."

The resolution was introduced by President Benjamin Schlesinger and Brothers Manny Weis of Local 6, New York; Abraham Katovsky, Cleveland Joint Board; and Isidore Nagler, Local 10, New York, the four delegates of the I. L. G. W. U. at the New Orleans gathering. It was referred to the Committee on Organization, from which it was reported favorably back to the convention floor on Monday, November 26, where it was unanimously adopted.

This pledge of generous support, coming at a time when the I. L. G. (Continued on page 2)

## Economy Dress Strikers Wage Winning Fight Against Phila. Firm

Airtight Picketing Battles Up Shop—  
Workers Sure of Victory

The defiant challenge of the Economy Dress Co., 422 Sansom Street, Philadelphia, Pa., hurled repeatedly at the workers of their shop during the past few months, reinforced by threats that they would break their union spirit and "fire all of them if they wished," was finally met two weeks ago by a complete walkout of the entire working staff, cutters, operators, drapers and all others.

Time and again, the shop organization and the representatives of Local 50 told the firm that they would not tolerate the discharge of union cutters and operators and wouldn't work side by side with non-union people. The employers, however, ignored these complaints, with their minds obviously fixed on "breaking the union" in their shop.

The strike is proceeding with every promise of an early and complete victory. The few strike-breakers in the place, the strikers know, are incompetent and are a millstone on the firm's neck. The ranks of the workers are solid, and the picketing around the shop is carried on with zeal and vigor.

## Baroff Exposes "Comrade" Hyman In Rothstein-Communist Deals

Brands Willing Communist Tool in Lost Cloak Strike as Liar  
and Traducer

Last week "Comrade" Hyman, Communist chairman of the fateful cloak strike of 1926, and now acting as Communist window-dressing for their "national" scab agency, again showed

that he is as ever ready to act as a convenient rug for his Communist playmates whenever a particularly nasty job is to be pulled off, or some dirty work to be covered up.

The Communist scab agency has just gone through an uncommonly bad couple of weeks. It had blows raining on it from all sides, and even the hardest-boiled of this brazen coterie must have felt the going pretty hot. First came the documentary disclosure in the "Daily Forward" of the intimate connections of the Communist "Miners' National Union" with a notorious New York detective agency that was in pay of the non-union mine operators. Then there appeared, like a bolt from the blue, the fond letter addressed by Arnold Rothstein, the gambler and underworld hero, killed a few weeks ago in New York City, to Julius Portnoy, the "financial secretary" of the Communist scab outfit, in which the former affectionately de-

(Continued on page 2)

## Children's Dress Makers Prepare For Big Strike

Board of Local 91 Ready for Advance Drive—Fight Against Non-  
Union Shops Unavoidable—Dinner for Manager Greenberg  
Saturday Evening

The executive board of the Children's Dress and House Dress Makers' Union, Local 91, held on Thursday, November 22, decided without a dissenting vote to begin a preparatory drive in anticipation of a general strike in the trade early in February. Such a strike in the trade, according to the active workers of this local, is inevitable.

The agreement between Local 91 and the employers in the children's dress and house dress trades will expire in February. The strike is being planned not against the union firms but against the numerous non-union shops which are menacing work standards in the trade by cheap production. Only a general strike, it is agreed on all sides, may save these trades from total demoralization.

The beginning of this drive in the children's dress trade coincides with a banquet which Local 91 is tendering Vice-president Harry Greenberg, its manager, this Saturday evening, December 1st, at the Little Roumanian Restaurant, 76 Second Avenue. Bro. Greenberg has been manager of

Local 91 for thirteen years, and has recently been re-elected to this post after he had tendered his resignation, and was only induced to reassume charge of the local by the combined influence of ex-President Sigman and practically the whole membership. Many of the International locals in New York City and several members of the G. E. B. will be present at the banquet.

## Local 52, Los Angeles Cloakmakers, Now Reorganized by International

Group of Communist Officials Breaks Away From I. L. G. W. U.  
at Rump Meeting—Mass of Los Angeles Workers Remain  
Loyal to Union—Bro. Abraham Plotkin New Manager of  
Local 52.

A group of Communists, who managed some months ago to worm their way into the offices of Local 52, the cloakmakers' organization of that city, began soon after they gained power to terrorize the loyal members of the I. L. G. W. U. in Los Angeles

and to gradually squeeze them out of their jobs in the shops to make room for their own "comrades" and henchmen.

"Among their first acts, these Communists began giving out 'receipts' (Continued on Page 3)



## A. F. of L. Convention Pledges Assistance To International

(Continued from page 1)

W. U. organizations in New York City and in other centers are preparing to formulate demands embodying industrial improvements for the cloak and dress trades everywhere in conjunction with the renewals of the old agreements which are soon to expire, will be glad news to the cloakmakers and dressmakers. The backing of the A. F. of L. will, no doubt, have a heartening effect on both the leadership and the rank and file of the ladies' garment workers everywhere and will solidify their front during the critical period of the negotiations with the employers which is to arrive in the near future.

We give herewith the full text of the resolution:

### Resolution

"Whereas, In the twenty-eight years of its existence as a national labor organization affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union has always remained true and loyal to the principles of the trade union movement, has always readily assisted morally and materially other labor organizations, and has in return received the generous cooperation and aid of the A. F. of L., of its Executive Council, and of many of its affiliated unions, whenever such aid and cooperation was asked for, and

"Whereas, The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union is now approaching the expiration of the collective agreements with the cloak and dress manufacturers' associations in the main center of its industry, in New York City, and will soon begin negotiations with these employers looking forward to a renewal of collective agreements involving tens of thousands of workers, be it therefore

"Resolved, that the 48th annual convention of the American Federation of Labor in New Orleans, La., instruct the Executive Council to give the I. L. G. W. U. all cooperation and assistance to complete successfully the task of renewing these agreements with the best results for the workers and to help reinforce the position and prestige of the I. L. G. W. U. in the trades over which it has jurisdiction."

As we go to press, the 48th convention of the A. F. of L. is coming to an end, and a number of the delegates, including our own, have already quit New Orleans, some of them planning to reach their home cities for Thanksgiving Day.

We shall give our readers a more detailed and intimate account of the experience of our delegation at the New Orleans convention in the next issue of "Justice."

## Great Meeting Greeted Hochman, Amdur and Breslaw In Boston

(Continued from page 1)

munist outfit. "These employers will soon find out that all their labors in behalf of the Communists had been in vain and that the workers stand united in the defense of the work standards guaranteed to them by the contracts," he concluded.

Bro. Amdur was followed by Vice-president Breslaw, manager of Local 35 of New York, who told the Boston workers that the International is ready to help them regain the hold on the local industry and to solidify their organization. He told them that the New York pressers are keenly interested in the fate of their fellow-workers in Boston and will do all they can to aid them in becoming a force to be reckoned with in the local shops. He described the scabbery and the destructive work of the Communists in many New York shops and warned them to stay away from Communist wiles and treachery.

Vice-president Breslaw was followed by Business Agent Morabito, who spoke in Italian in place of Vice-president Ninfo who could not arrive on time for this meeting from New York, and by Bro. Grages, business representative of the Boston Central Labor Union, who declared that the local body will do all in its power to aid the cloakmakers and dressmakers in their fight for a free, effective union.

The last speaker of the evening was

Vice-President Julius Hochman, well-known to all Boston workers for the able manner in which he conducted not so long ago their strike, who received a tremendous ovation.

Bro. Hochman began by saying that he had been used to discuss with the workers of Boston their work grievances and their shop conditions. He is informed now that the Boston cloakmakers and dressmakers are fighting among themselves. For what? For whose sake?

Hochman launched into a description of the "heroes" who are fighting for a new "union" in Boston, and his clever sallies were greeted by loud, hearty laughter. Hochman knows these "soldiers of the revolution" too well. He had experience with them during the general strike, but at that time they had not donned yet a Communist mask and were just plain parasites; he also had a varied experience with the New York "leaders" of this filthy crew and knows that they are of the selfsame material. They want no union but a convenient tool for their plotting and schemings against the labor movement in America. They want long strikes and disturbances in order to be able to report to their masters in Moscow that they are carrying on a revolution in the United States and on the strength of his to obtain finances from them.

He further told the workers of the conferences already held with the local manufacturers, at which the latter were warned not to attempt to take advantage of the confused condition created by the Communist agents and not to interfere with the union work conditions in the shops. He appealed to the audience to stand united in this struggle for the preservation of their union and not to be bullied by either the Communists or the bosses. The union will put the local organization on a solid footing, and when the time will come for the renewal of the agreements, the Boston workers will be able adequately to defend themselves.

## Sec'y Baroff Exposes "Comrade" Hyman In Rothstein-Communist Deals

(Continued from page 1)

clared to Portnoy that they, meaning the Communists, could not "pay him for his services." The photograph of this letter, signed by Rothstein, appeared in the "Daily Forward" and created consternation among all the union-smashing "comrades", linking these "idealists" irrevocably with the underworld and its denizens.

In such a moment of dismay the Communists, as had to be expected, issued an appeal to all their "hands" to rush to the rescue, and Mr. Hyman at once appeared in the role of a "savior." In a long contribution, printed in the Jewish Communist sheet, "Comrade" Hyman declares that, in the first place, he sees no harm for "revolutionary" leaders in accepting "loans" from any source, even from an underworld leader like Rothstein, and, secondly, reiterates the old, long-discarded canard that not he, nor Portnoy, but Secretary Baroff of the International was the financial secretary of the cloak strike in 1926.

This statement, of course, is a fabrication out of the whole cloth, and Secretary Baroff adequately disposes of this false assertion in a statement which he issued to the press immediately after it became known that Hyman is again resorting to the old trick of pulling the wool over the eyes of the innocents in connection with the Communist squandering of the three and a half million dollars during that unfortunate strike. This is what Secretary Baroff says in full concerning this matter:

### Statement by Secretary Baroff

"I shall not concern myself with the efforts of Mr. Hyman to pull the Communists out of the bloody mess into which they had dragged themselves by their dealings with the underworld, except as to flatly and finally deny what has already been adequately refuted by me and many others in connection with financial responsibility during the cloak strike of 1926.

"Hyman says, 'I was not the treasurer, Fish was the treasurer, and Baroff was the chairman of the finance committee of the strike.' This is an abominable lie, which can be confirmed by the registered letter that I forwarded to Louis Hyman, as chairman of the General Strike Committee, on July 8, 1926, two days after the strike was called. In that letter I declared that I am withdrawing from the chairmanship for the reason that my health is bad. That he received that letter is positively confirmed by the receipt-card from the post office which I still hold, on which his signature appears in full.

"I take this opportunity further to state that I had withdrawn from the chairmanship not only because of my poor health at that time, but chiefly for the following reasons:

"1. When the Communists voted down Brother Sigman as chairman of the General Strike Committee, I became convinced that the strike could not be a success under the leadership of such a weakling as Hyman, and I felt disinclined to act as chairman of the finance committee under the unscrupulous leadership of the Communist outfit.

"2. The manner in which the Communist-controlled strike had organized its sub-committees indicated to me that my name, which always has stood for honesty and integrity in the workers' movement, might be compromised and besmirched if I continued to stay as head of the finance committee.

"Naturally, I did not make these reasons public, as I knew that the

Communists would at once broadcast me as a 'traitor' to the strike were my true sentiments made known at that time.

"Everyone who had anything to do with the strike knew, of course, that the factual chairman, secretary and boss of the finances of that strike was no one but Portnoy, and that all checks were signed, upon his orders, by 'Comrade' Louis Hyman, as chairman of the General Strike Committee, and by Joseph Fish, as treasurer. It is also generally known that 'Comrade' Portnoy personally approved and stamped for the finance committee all the expenses of the sub-committees of the strike.

"What concerns reports of expenditures, which Hyman claims to have been rendered to the executive committee of the General Strike Committee, he knows well himself that no detailed accounts of expenses were ever submitted to any committee, except vague totals and general sums."

## Unity House Has Many Week-End Guests

Visitors Pleased With Winter Accommodations—Weather Attracts Seekers of Rest and Comfort

The Unity House of the I. L. G. W. U., in Forest Park, Pa., its management reports, will have quite a crowd of week-end guests for the Thanksgiving holiday. From all indications it would seem, besides, that the decision to convert part of the place into winter rest quarters for workers who need a winter vacation has been a happy one. It appears now certain that the House will have a full winter season and is adequately equipped to accommodate all comers.

The rates continue to be as moderate as they were in summer, and the guests are being well taken care of in the steam-heated cottages and the steam-heated social hall. The food, as always, is excellent, and fun and sport is abundant. The lake is already frozen over and lovers of skating find plenty of room for a swing on the mile-and-a-half Unity lake. Besides, there is sleighing, and coasting, and hunting, for such as like the latter sport.

The management requests all prospective visitors to get in touch prior to arrival with the New York office of the Unity House, 3 West 16th St., New York City. Telephone Chelsea 2148. That will insure proper accommodations and quick transport from the Bushkill or Stroudsburg stations to the House.

## Members of Raincoat Local 20 Elect Officers Next Saturday

Balloting Will Take Place in Office of Local From 9 A. M. to 3 P. M. on Saturday, December 8.

The members of the Waterproof Garment Workers' Union, Local 20, of New York City will vote on Saturday, December 8, in an annual election of officers, paid and unpaid, for the year 1929.

Nominations for officers in Local 20 were made three weeks ago, and the nominated candidates were already examined with regard to their eligibility for office last week. Voting is obligatory for all members, and a fine of two dollars will be placed on each raincoat maker who fails to exercise this duty.

The balloting will take place in the headquarters of Local 20, 130 East 25th Street, lasting from 9 in the morning until 3 in the afternoon. A big vote is expected.

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## Union Health Center Fast Becoming Health Agency of All New York Unions

Dental Department Enlarges Facilities to Meet Increased Attendance—Letter Carriers' Association Latest Union to Affiliate with Health Center.

At the last meeting of the Central Trades and Labor Council the Union Health Center came to the fore again. Under the heading of "Reports from Local Unions," the services of this institution to organized labor was discussed by delegates from various unions. Miss Fannia Cohn of the I. L. G. W. U. read extracts from two recently published circulars. Mr. Fred Gaa, of the painters, told of the benefits he derived by using the facilities of the Union Health Center—both in the medical and the dental departments. Locals were urged to affiliate with the Health Center and make it thereby labor's own health department.

The Dental Department has had to increase its facilities to accommodate the increasing number of clients. The high quality of work, the personal attention given by Dr. Max Price, its chief, to each and every patient makes this Dental Department the mecca for all those who must have their teeth attended to.

An electro-cardiograph has been installed in the Medical Department

of this institution. This machine is of recent invention. Only the highest class heart specialists can afford to have it in their private offices, and the charges in such places are almost prohibitive to the average worker. As a rule, the charge for a cardiograph test runs from \$15 up. In the Health Center, however, the test costs only \$5. It seems timely to suggest that those suffering from heart trouble had better take advantage of the Health Center's offer.

Among the additional unions which have recently affiliated with this institution are the Paper Handlers and the Letter Carriers' Association.

The cost of medical care by private dentists and physicians is growing more and more prohibitive. This cost can be reduced by using the Health Center facilities to their full capacity. A sufficient number of doctors and dentists, with long experience, are there to take care of those who need their advice and their aid. The workers of New York City are entitled to come and see for themselves what Labor has thus far accomplished in the field of health service.

## Local 52, Los Angeles Cloakmakers, Now Reorganized by International

(Continued from page 1)

for dues paid in by members instead of International dues stamps, as the laws of the Union prescribe. The loyal members of the Union protested against such underhand business and refused to pay dues. They forwarded, in addition, a complaint of the irregular acts of the Communist officeholders of Local 52 to the General Office. The Communist outfit also would refuse to recognize members transferred from other cities, such as New York or Chicago, unless they were sure in advance that the transferred member was a "comrade" of theirs. Still more, they had, a short time ago, called out on strike a large local dress shop without justifiable cause—solely to demonstrate their "power" and to show the world what they can do.

When all these facts became known to the Gen. Executive Board, and after it was also confirmed that the "comrades" of Local 52 had not bought stamps from the General Office since July, 1928, it was decided to issue a warning to the officers of Local 52 that, unless they immediately abandon their practice, pay back to the General Office the misappropriated dues, and pledge to behave in the future like union men, they would be dealt with in conformity with the rules of the Union. In reply to this letter the Los Angeles commissars drummed up a meeting in great haste, and at this meeting, which was attended by about 100 workers, most of them their own followers, decided by a vote of 75 to break away from the I. L. G. W. U. and to join the "national" scab agency.

This number—75—represents at this moment the maximum Communist strength among the Los Angeles cloakmakers and dressmakers, of a union membership of nearly 600 and of a total number of nearly 1,000 cloakmakers in the city. The loyal members of the International in Los Angeles immediately wired the General Office of the treacherous act of the local commissars. President Schlesinger thereupon appointed a provisional executive committee of

true and tried members of the International to take charge of the reorganization of Local 52, and this committee, consisting of Brothers J. Goldberg, L. Gold, M. Steinberg, H. Rabinstein and L. Pinkofsky, set out without delay to reconstruct the local cloak and dress organization.

Bro. Schlesinger simultaneously appointed Bro. Abraham Plotkin, former manager of Local 52, as manager of the Los Angeles organization, and Secretary Baroff forwarded to him the full equipment of a local office. Contacts were also made at once with the Los Angeles Central Labor Union, first, to deny the Communist "representative" the right to speak for the local at their meetings, and, secondly, to admit the delegate of the International local to represent the Los Angeles cloakmakers.

The agreement in the Los Angeles market has recently expired, and the twenty local cloak manufacturers, who employ about 600 workers, have already made it known in the market that they would deal with no rump group of Communist-led malcontents, but would sign an agreement with the International Union only, the organization they have dealt with for many years past, in whose integrity and square-dealing they have confidence.

## "American" Staff Gives Silk Umbrella to Nagler at Farewell Meeting

Before leaving for the A. F. of L. convention in New Orleans, La., as delegate of the International Union, Bro. Isidore Nagler, general manager of the New York Joint Board, met with the business staff of the American and Independent departments to outline to them the work for the two-week period of his absence in the Louisiana city.

After a thorough discussion of the schedule of the department's activity, Bro. Ben Moser, manager of this department, presented to Nagler, in behalf of his entire staff, a silk umbrella and wished him good luck and a happy return.

## Chicago Joint Board Gives Farewell Dinner to Ex-Pres. Sigman

Chicago Union Tenders Bro. Sigman Pleasant Surprise on Way to Western Home

On Saturday evening, November 17, the Chicago Joint Board tendered ex-President Morris Sigman a pleasant surprise in the form of a testimonial dinner, while he and Mrs. Sigman were passing through Chicago on the way to Storm Lake, Iowa, their present home.

Despite the fact that the banquet was arranged in a hurry, it was well attended. All the Chicago locals of the I. L. G. W. U., the labor press of that city, the Chicago Federation of Labor, and many friendly organizations were represented. Vice-president Mollie Friedman delivered the parting talk for the Joint Board.

Bro. M. A. Goldstein, the secretary of the Chicago Joint Board, presented to Mr. and Mrs. Sigman a costly typewriter as a memento from the Chicago organization. Bro. M. Blais acted as toastmaster.

## Local 9, N. Y. Finishers, Have Fine Section Meetings

Saturday Lectures During Winter Will Be Given

On Monday last, November 26, the Cloak Finishers' Local of New York, No. 9, held four section meetings in Greater New York, namely, in Beethoven Hall, downtown; Harlem Educational Center, in the Workmen's Circle headquarters in the Bronx, and in the Brownsville Labor Lyceum. The meetings were very well attended and took up business reports on the local's activity for the current two weeks.

The meetings also discussed the coming spring season, general activity and educational work during the approaching winter among the members of Local 9. It was decided to arrange every Saturday afternoon lectures at the headquarters, under the auspices of a special Finishers' Forum, on trade union and general labor subjects.

The opening of this forum, including place and time, will be shortly announced.

## Kenosha Hosiery Workers' Lockout

National attention was again riveted on the colorful struggle of the hosiery workers of the Allen-A Company, Kenosha, Wis., for the right to organize and for arbitration, when twenty-six of them voluntarily went to jail in October. They had been fined \$100 each by Federal Judge Ferdinand Geiger for contempt of court, such contempt consisting of alleged picketing. As the fine would have gone to the Allen-A Company, the "defendants" preferred jail and are serving an indefinite sentence in the Milwaukee County House of Correction.

In the nine months' lockout the Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers have made repeated offers for arbitration of the points in dispute, all of which have been rejected by the company. The dispute arose over two points: the installation of the so-called two-machine system and the denial by the firm of the right of the workers to organize. Both issues were pushed forward by the company, the workers having made no demands.

At the time of the lockout, the union offered a \$25,000 bond to guarantee that Allen-A would make as much money at the end of one year under the one-machine system as under the lowered labor cost of the two-machine system. The company rejected this offer, stating that it was really the question of unionism that was involved.

A fourth move for arbitration is now on foot, the General Strike Committee having asked the Kenosha Chamber of Commerce to put itself on record in favor of arbitration and to take steps to help bring it about. The business men of Kenosha will be canvassed individually on the subject.

The 330 young Americans who have been locked out these nine months are convinced that the offers they

have made to the Allen-A Company are fair, and they are determined to win their right to organize and for arbitration. They have withstood the attacks of private detectives, labor spies, the persecution of the police, a call for the militia and the Federal injunction—a remarkable loyalty to their cause.

## Joint Board on Guard Against Fake "Reorganizations"

A Few Firms Attempt to Discharge Old Workers, But Are Baffled

According to information received from the offices of the New York Joint Board, several cloak and dress firms are making an effort at the present moment to "get rid" of some of their old workers on spurious pretexts.

A. G. Morris & Co., an old dress firm where forty workers, mostly women, are employed, some of them for over twenty years, for instance, made an attempt to drop several old workers while moving its quarters. The Union definitely refused to countenance this step.

The cloak firm of Kerner Bros., employing thirty workers, also made an attempt to discharge a few men with the excuse that it was decreasing its shop. The Union quickly called this bluff by pointing out to the firm that it employed numerous outside contractors doing the same grade of work.

The Joint Board requests all cloakmakers and dressmakers to notify the office of the Union without fail in the event any employer attempts to put over a discharge on them so that the office might be able to check such moves in time.

## JUSTICE

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## EDITORIALS

### Current Thoughts On the Present Moment

It is between-season time now in the cloak and dress trades. The fall season in the women's wear shops is at an end, and like the other fall seasons in the past half-dozen years it had brought little joy to our workers. Like its predecessors, this last fall season was so tardy in arriving that most cloakmakers began to despair of its coming at all. Then, for a month, work appeared with a rush in all the shops, the peak of the season being succeeded by a fitful stretch lasting another few weeks, during which some shops worked to capacity while others continued on short-rations.

There is hopeful humming and buzzing in the market that the next spring season will be a good season. Since the war years, the work seasons in both the cloak and dress trade have undergone a distinct change. The main work-period of the year in this industry is not, as it used to be, the winter season but the spring season. It is in the spring season that the cloakmaker and the dressmaker vests his main hope; it is from the spring season that he expects to derive the major part of his living budget. Besides, the slack stretch between the fall and spring seasons has been materially shortened in recent years, and there is a feeling abroad that this year, too, spring work will soon show up in the shops.

But this feeling of tense expectancy in wide cloakmaker circles is confined not only to the early arrival of spring work.

Each passing day and week is bringing closer home to our masses the realization that their industry and their union will soon be face to face with momentous developments. Right after the spring season of 1929 comes the expiration of the agreements with all the jobbers, manufacturers and contractors in the cloak industry. New agreements will have to be signed with all these employers, by peaceful efforts if possible and through an open conflict if unavoidable. It is all too plain, therefore, that the workers must be adequately prepared for a possible emergency, that they must mobilize all their strength to convince the entire industry that behind their demands there stands a solid force ready to meet and repel every attack on their work standards.

The formulation of a program on the basis of which the Union might coordinate its relations with the employers a few months hence, was the main subject of the long conferences between President Schlesinger and the various cloak executive boards in New York City some weeks ago. And from these local board meetings the discussion has now spread over the whole range of our market. It is the paramount topic of debate and vigorous argument wherever cloakmakers get together; it is reviving drooping spirits, it is reawakening old confidence, it is rekindling a new faith in the International Union as the only positive, creative force that could lead the cloakmakers out of the wilderness into which some of them had strayed.

Most impressive is the fact that this faith is imbuing anew today not only such workers as have from the first stood solidly around their union and have supported it without stint or measure; it is permeating with an equal force even such cloakmakers as have stayed away from their union in the days of its greatest need, either through weakness and apathy, or because they had succumbed under the effect of malicious propaganda. Deep down in their hearts these workers, too, are beginning to realize that their only salvation lies not in vile oppositional schemes, not in bastard union-wrecking outfits which are utterly foreign and alien to our union soil, but in their old glorious organization, in our International Union, which for two generations past has toiled and fought to put the cloakmakers and the dressmakers in the front rank of the labor movement in America.

We haven't the slightest desire to embellish our situation or to adorn it with false feathers. We always have stuck to the rule that it is best for all concerned to look realities straight in the face.

Our situation, on the whole, we must admit, is far from good, though it is by no means hopeless. A considerable number of cloak shops in New York are disorganized, and a considerable number of cloakmakers are still dazed, confused and severed from the main body of their fellow workers. In many cloak shops conditions are decidedly cheerless, and the Union's voice in these shops is not heard with its old-time authority and firmness. Let us, nevertheless, bear in mind that even in these demoralized shops the workers had only recently belonged to the Union, and, what is even more important, even in these shops the workers realize that sooner or later they would have to rejoin their union. It is this element of workers that President Schlesinger obviously

had in mind at a recent meeting of the Joint Board when he said that his goal is a "union for all the workers in the trade." "I believe and hope," Bro. Schlesinger continued, "to regain the wide friendship of all cloakmakers and dressmakers for our Union and for its aims through my earnest endeavor to admit into it all workers without distinction of political beliefs and party affiliations, and to guide it in accordance with the best dictates of my conscience along trade union lines and for the interests and needs of its members only."

In their sum and substance, President Schlesinger's remarks fully conform to the letter and spirit of the resolution adopted at the Boston convention, which opens widely the doors of the Union to all bona fide workers in our trades without restrictions as to office holding and other prerogatives of membership. It is the old sound spirit which always has governed our organization, the spirit of true tolerance toward an opponent no matter how sharp and carping as long as he remained within the frame of trade union decency and was not manipulated in his words and actions by an outside clique or party.

There is a world of work to be achieved between now and the end of next spring, and now is the time to begin it in earnest. Now is the time to start the preparatory campaign, to lay down a program of activity, and to discuss with clear heads the industrial improvements that we are in a position to demand and win.

Very soon, we expect, the General Executive Board will have another short session to formulate an immediate organizational and industrial plan of action, which it will address to the entire membership. For this program all the leading circles in our organization, together with the vast mass of cloakmakers and dressmakers in New York City and in other centers, are now eagerly waiting.

### The A. F. of L. Convention in New Orleans

We do not expect miracles to happen at the convention of the American Federation of Labor which is now in session in New Orleans. We don't anticipate that the Federation will this year, of a sudden, change its fundamental tactics or theoretical position.

We aren't given to such illusions for this simple reason: We believe that if the leadership of the American trade union is conservative, as is generally accepted, the great mass of American workers are immeasurably even more conservative. There is an old saying—a fleet can travel no faster than its slowest vessel,—and the leaders of the A. F. of L. apparently are not in the least deceived about it. And even those among them who, in addition to their knowledge of the true psychology of the rank-and-file bricklayer, printer, machinist, railway employee and the other workers who compose the bulk of the unions affiliated with the Federation, possess a measure of vision and imagination are not craving to play the role of Don Quixotes and essay to slash the air furiously with imaginary sabres. There is danger in such a situation for a leader who attempts to rush too far ahead of his troops to discover that in his impetuous march he had been left without an army.

Those who are accustomed to bemoan the so-called colorlessness and "bread-and-butter" physiognomy of the American trade union movement might do well to stop to consider this fact before they begin their annual jeremiad anent the shortcomings of the Federation and the nearsightedness of its leadership. The great majority of the unions which compose the Federation consists of human material which is totally unconcerned with the idealistic mantle in which is cloaked, for instance, the Labor movement in Europe. They are, to the exclusion of anything else, concerned with their daily, call it narrow, interests and will hear nothing of other aims and purposes transcending these interests.

This mass psychology is, perhaps, an obstacle in the way of a greater assertion of the potential forces of Labor in America, but this mass psychology, admittedly, is no accident in American life. It is the logical, natural product of American economic and industrial development for decades past—in other words, it is America. Certainly, this indifference to and distrust of idealism cannot be removed by invective, detraction and blind attack. Essentially, it must be accepted that each country, at each given period of its development, has the type of Labor movement which it deserves. It would be laughable, of course, to expect that the American Labor movement should have the same outward form and inner content of the German or English movement, and vice versa.

Nevertheless it would be utterly false to assert that the American Federation of Labor is not forging ahead in its economic concepts, applied and theoretical, which it frankly considers the weightiest factor affecting the well-being of the wage-earner.

Let us, for but a moment, take a glance at the agenda of the pending convention in New Orleans, and examine some of its principal points. At the top of the New Orleans program, we find the problem of organizing the unorganized, the subject of the five-day work-week, and the question of unemployment and measures for its amelioration on a national scale. The convention, in point of fact, was opened with a trenchant appeal, which found a wide echo through the breadth and width of the land, addressed to the whole organized Labor movement to "double the membership of the Federation within the coming year." Nothing should be left undone, the appeal rang, to gather into the fold of the Union movement the organizable millions in mine, field or factory that are still outside of it.

The professional critics of the A. F. of L., to say nothing of its sworn traducers, will, no doubt, shrug their shoulders and remark that such a call for organizing the unorganized had been issued by the Federation at several former conventions and noth-

## Stabilizing Prosperity

ON November 21st, before the Conference of Governors at New Orleans, Governor Ralph O. Brewster of Maine presented a tentative program, endorsed by President-elect Herbert Hoover, for the stabilization of prosperity and the reduction of unemployment. The plan, in gist, consists of the creation of a three-billion dollar governmental construction fund to be held in reserve and released at such times when imminence of an economic depression requires it.

The idea is not a new one, but never before has it had the same probability of acceptance as now, being endorsed by the executive of the incoming administration at Washington. It was, in a way, suggested by the President's Conferences on Unemployment in 1921 and 1923. It was the basis of Senator Pepper's proposed amendment to the appropriation bill of the Department of Agriculture, his proposal being to double the seventy-one millions appropriated for road building in any year in which the volume of general construction fell below one-third the 1923 volume for three successive months. This was, compared to the present proposal, but a drop in the bucket of depression—and belated, at that. As was the bill of Senator Jones, entitled "A Bill to Create a Prosperity Reserve and to Stabilize Industry and Employment by the Expansion of Public Works during Periods of Unemployment and Industrial Depression." This, which would have appropriated 150 millions, was referred to the Committee on Commerce in January, 1923. During the recent national campaign both major parties endorsed the principle, by Governor Smith the more emphatically—as is his way, the party in power could not very well admit that the prosperity it claimed to have created required extensive tinkering with.

The theoretical basis of Governor Brewster's proposal is contained in two books issued by the Pollak Foundation for Economic Research and entitled "Business Without a Buyer" and "The Road to Plenty." The authors are William Trufant Foster and Waddill Catchings, both of the staff of the Foundation, who summarized their proposition in the leading article of the Century Magazine for July, 1923—called "Progress and Plenty."

The fundamental assumptions—the "plain facts"—of the Foster-Catchings economic theory are these:

1. The industries of the country are, in general, fully equipped to increase their output. It is accepted that the plant running at seventy per cent of its capacity is doing unusually well. This idleness of equipment is often coincident with widespread unemployment and need as in the fall and winter of 1927.

2. The full capacity of the industry

The Plan for a Three-Billion Dollar Construction Fund — The "Dilemma of Thrift" — Artificial Expansion of Consumer Demand—A "Federal Budget Board"—"Real" and "Phantom" Prosperity

By A. L. SHANDS

is not used because the full product cannot be sold. There is no active demand for the surplus that would thus be created.

3. The surplus product cannot be sold, not because there is no need for it, but because the consumers haven't the money with which to buy it. Mere desire, without ability to pay, is not effective demand.

These three facts represent a condition usually known as over-production, but which Foster and Catchings prefer to call under-consumption. They assert that this condition is inherent in the economic process, and may be remedied only occasionally and accidentally at present. They propose to control it.

With the orthodox and optimistic notion that the very process of producing commodities for sale automatically provides buyers of the commodities they disagree emphatically. The orthodox economist says that when, say, one thousand dollars worth of goods is offered to buyers, that thousand dollars is already available purchasing power because it has been divided as wages and profits between all those—employer, employee, distributor—who share in the thousand dollar retail price. Foster and Catchings admit that this is so, but point out that all of the thousand dollars earned by or divided between employer and employee is not available for purchasing—because some of it is saved. So that, for instance, when a thousand dollars worth of goods is produced there is only nine hundred dollars with which to buy. In other words, so far as the ability to buy it on the part of the consumer, one-tenth of the product is surplus. That makes the condition known as over-production or under-consumption. It could be called the "dilemma of thrift."

How, then, do we get along without persistent depression since the above is a continuing phenomenon? In the following way: When an industry expands by building new plants or new machinery, the wage payments to the workers who build these things are made at a time when the money received can be spent only on goods produced by the old facilities. In this way, you are adding to effective demand without increasing the supply. The surplus due to thrift is thus gobbled up and "over-production" prevented.

In recent years, for example, the consumer demand has been also increased, artificially, by sales on the installment plan. The money owed on installments is now estimated to be three billion dollars. Of course, paying this off will cut into consumer-money later—so that Foster and Catchings do not recommend it as an institution upon which we can depend for the prosperity it has aided in bringing about.

There have been complaints to the effect that the automobile industry has taken away potential customers from other industries. According to this theory, the automobile has actually added to the aggregate purchasing power because the industry producing it has expanded from almost nothing to a valuation of six billion dollars in a quarter of a century, the expansion adding consumer-money all along the line before automobiles could be manufactured by the expanded facilities with which to call back the consumer-money. Without the automobile industry conditions might have been much worse unless some other great industry had sprung up in its stead. Of course, there were other factors, too. But the point is that every new industry or new plant helps all others before it becomes their competitor.

In other words, though it sounds like a paradox, industry—as a whole—has to expand in order to preserve its stability. We get on, in the words of Foster and Catchings, only when the cost of preparing for future production is enough, in addition to the cost of current production, to give people the money they must have to buy all the goods that are ready.

That is why the carloads of pig-iron shipped are an index of future prosperity. No industry can expand without using it; large shipments of pig-iron indicate a coming increase in consumer purchasing power through wages paid for work on expanding capital facilities.

However, since there is no organized plan "to expand in order not to contract," we have depressions. The psychological tendency, rather, is in the opposite direction. The hint of depression frightens most business men, they draw in their horns. They cut down on their program for expansion; they cut down production; they refuse to buy until conditions get better. And all this intensifies the depression. On the other hand, when prices are going up, they climb on the speculative handwagon to boost them even further.

These are vicious spirals of deflation and inflation, and Foster and Catchings propose that the government step in both to guide and control the situation.

If the government, for example, has purchases to make, it should, in so far as possible, make them during a period when most business men are drawing into their shells. This would serve both to ameliorate the depression and to encourage manufacturers to get over their fear.

In 1921 the Administration took much pride in the fact that it had used its surplus revenue to reduce the public debt. Yet in 1921 the country was in the throes of a great industrial depression and unemployment crisis. The money that was used to reduce the public debt, say Foster and Catchings, could have been more wisely used to start public works which would have given jobs to the unemployed, and by providing them with effective consuming power passed along work to others—thus boosting conditions upward again. But there was no authorized body to recommend that way.

The proposal, then, is to form a "Federal Budget Board," after the manner of the Federal Reserve Board, to stabilize industry and unemployment as the latter does currency—by releasing work to and withdrawing work from the market as circumstances demand. The three billion dollar appropriation mentioned by Governor Brewster is to be authorized on a long-range plan of construction by Congress and is to be tapped by the proposed board to meet these conditions.

The board should do more than just that. To be efficient, it must gather statistics, like those of unemployment, that are now in a fog. By keeping track of that also the price-level of consumer's goods, it can advise both government and industry as to the proper time to increase expenditures for capital facilities and public works.

The American Federation of Labor has approved the proposal. Lesser labor organizations have done the same. Whether it can do all it is claimed for it is really an academic question at present. That it brings plan and knowledge to a situation that has previously been chaotic is all to the good.

The planning can, of course, be abused. Let us say that, at a time when the subway employees go on strike, the company asks the government to release men at work on public building in the vicinity so that it may use them as scabs. The government, or this board, might consent; it is conceivable. It might also, on occasion, provide public work for men on strike. Probably, it wouldn't do either. But the supposition indicates the possibility of abuse.

There might also be conflicting definitions of prosperity. Judging from the debate between the speakers for both major parties on the very existence of prosperity during the past campaign, it would seem that there is some difference of opinion as to what prosperity actually is. In a rising labor market (to labor an index of prosperity) the government might see fit, on request perhaps, to release men from public construction work in order to lower the labor price. Business men and manufacturers would probably think that a step toward "real" prosperity.

It would be no easy task for thousands of textile workers, laid off because of over-production or any other reason, to accustom themselves to road-work which the government offered them to tide over the depression. Still, the fact that they could take on such work would be an improvement on the prospect of no work and no income at all.

It seems, too, that the problem of unemployment due to the extension of labor-saving devices is hardly scratched at all by the plan. Under it, it would be perfectly possible, say, for ninety-seven per cent of the population to be "adequately" prosperous while three per cent were steadily out of work—despite expansion, public work, etc. Labor-saving devices would be responsible for them. Reduced profits and reduced hours would take care of them, but that's not in the proposed plan. And every one per cent of population in this country means over a million people.

All this is said, however, not carpishly, but to clarify the point that this offers no prospect of a millennium. The Foster-Catchings proposal, if adopted, should benefit industry and labor in the long run.

### BOOKS OF INTEREST

We want to remind our members that many of the interesting books which have been published lately can be ordered through our Educational Department at reduced rates.

Our members may take advantage of this offer not only for themselves, but for their young folks.

ing substantial has so far come of it. There may be a grain of truth in this, yet it would be both dangerous and cynical to infer a hasty judgment from this half-truth. The fact above all remains that the Federation itself, without the aid of the big individual international which possess big treasuries, is not able to carry on huge and expensive organizing campaigns, and these international have, until now, shown no inclinations to throw in their full material strength behind a movement to organize big masses of workers which directly do not belong to their crafts.

What cannot be denied is that this urge to organize the unorganized, this cry for mobilization of all the wage-earning forces of the country under the banner of the Federation, is early assuming greater volume on the floor of the A. F. of L. conventions and beyond it. This year it bids well to become the central slogan of the whole American Labor movement. These urgent, compelling words, sooner or later, will have to be converted into deeds, these calls for action will inevitably be transformed into concrete activity, until the whole trade union world will be found ready, spiritually and materially, to tackle the stonewall with which the anti-union forces of America are surrounding the millions of unorganized workers, and break through it.



## Wages, Prices and Output

By B. R. D.

Wages must not be raised, so that prices may not rise, this is the cry of employers. And the workers say: As, in spite of the relatively increased output or capacity for output of their workers the employers cannot make up their minds to lower prices, but instead raise them whenever they can, wage increases must be dragged out of the employers, if only for the sake of finding a market for the goods produced. In drawing this inference they surely have a right to declare that not only does the increase in output give them a right to a larger share of the general prosperity, but that their policy actually does promote the general good, that is, it tends to maintain and further the interests of the whole community.

In support of these arguments, we can appeal to recent statements by the heads of two of the largest workers' organizations of the world. We can quote the words of Lelpart, president of the German national trade union centre, in his speech at the recent German trade union congress at Hamburg on "Wages and Prices," and we can further quote a recent article by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, published in "The Trade Union News," under the title of "Do Wages Keep Pace with Wealth?"

Green writes as follows: "America is growing richer and richer. More is produced and more is consumed. Do workers share in the opportunities which growing industry offers?"

The wealth produced by manufacturing industries for each individual American was higher than in 1922, as follows: In 1923, 17 per cent.; in 1924, 1 per cent.; in 1925, 13 per cent.; in 1926, 12 per cent.; in 1927, 2 per cent.; in March, 1928, 7 per cent.; in April, 1928, 8 per cent.; in May, 1928, 6 per cent.

At the same time wages were higher than in 1922, as follows: In 1923, 10 per cent.; in 1924, 11 per cent.; in 1925, 14 per cent.; in 1926, 16 per cent.; in 1927, 16 per cent.; in January, 1928, 13 per cent.; in February, 1928, 17 per cent.; in March, 1928, 18 per cent.; in April, 1928, 16 per cent.; in May, 1928, 18 per cent.

Since 1922 wage-earners have shared at an increasing rate in the growing wealth which manufacturing industry has produced. But, first, only those who have been employed could share, not those thousands and hundreds of thousands who have been unemployed; second, there was a long period before 1922, during which workers did not share fully in the growing wealth, in which they lagged behind, and even today, after considerable increases, their share is not greater than at the beginning of the century. That is, workers' wages have increased from 1899 to 1928 at about the same rate as production and prices, that is, as wealth produced and opportunities offered, and not more.

Since 1922 production per worker in manufacturing industries has increased steadily. From year to year the individual worker has turned out more. From year to year he has enriched the country at an increasing rate. The output per worker increased from 1922 to 1923, by 1 per cent.; from 1922 to 1924, by 3 per cent.; from 1922 to 1925, by 15 per cent.; from 1922 to 1926, by 18 per cent.; from 1922 to 1927, by 20 per cent.

This increase in production per worker has continued at an astonishingly high rate during the year 1928. The output per worker was above the 1922 level in January, 1928, 26 per cent.; February, 1928, 32 per cent.; March, 1928, 32 per cent.; April, 1928,

33 per cent.; May, 1928, 30 per cent.

According to the Berlin "Vorwärts" Lelpart, speaking on "Wages and Prices," refuted the argument so widely used by employers that rises in wages cannot but lead to the rises in prices. (In the United States real prices have often fallen during the years in question, and especially recently). We have often opposed these statements, he declared, and "today I should like to emphasize once again the fact that this alleged inevitable association between wages and prices does not really exist at all: least of all, in a period of comprehensive rationalization, such as we have experienced during the last few years. Unfortunately, rationalization has not brought about a fall of prices. But the productivity of the factories has risen greatly. The General Manager of the great Lingner Works in Dresden wrote a few weeks ago that within the last decade the output of the individual worker had on an average risen by almost 30 per cent. But where do we find this rise in productivity causing a fall in prices? The output has increased and been cheapened, the taxes have declined, but instead of falling, prices go on steadily rising. We have looked upon it as one of our foremost tasks to resist this tendency as much as we could, and yet it has become more and more marked during the period of economic prosperity.

"We have resolutely opposed the unjustifiable rises in the prices of coal, potash and iron, and also the rises in the railway and postal rates; sometimes by written protests, sometimes by verbal discussions with the associations concerned, and many times in public meetings and in the press. We also hoped that a fall in the price level might follow upon the conclusion of the commercial treaties which have been made during the course of the last year or two with most of our neighbors. But unfortunately the treaties were not framed as we should have wished them to be. In spite of the international economic conference, the tendency towards isolation from other states has proved stronger than economic reasonableness."

In another connection Lelpart makes the following remarks on the wage question: "In the wage question the trade unions have always demanded that attention should be concentrated not on raising wages further, but on lowering prices. The Government has long pursued a merely negative policy. Indeed, in the summer of 1927 it carried this negative policy so far that the Minister of Labor refused to declare binding the arbitral award which allocated a 3 per cent. rise in wages to the miners of the Central German lignite district. The rise was refused, not because it was too small, but because this trivial increase might cause a rise in price. Four months later, in a new conciliation procedure, the miners were awarded 10 per cent. and this award was declared binding, but no rise in price followed upon it.

All efforts to bring about a fall in prices having failed, there is nothing left but to raise wages. Nevertheless on account of the great unemployment, very few wage increases were obtained in 1926: the wage rate for male workers was in December, 1926, still that of the end of 1925, namely, 87 pfg. By the end of 1927 it had risen to 94 pfg. But the statistics of the strikers and wage movements given in our Year Book show that this rise was not due to voluntary concession on the part of the employers, but had to be wrung from them by trade union struggle." (According to the Year Book of the German national trade union centre, there were almost as many wage movements in 1927 as in that great year of conflict, 1924).

## "Disorderly Conduct" In Paterson

"Capricious and irresponsible conduct" by the Paterson police in handling picket lines, reaching a climax yesterday in the arrest of 17 pickets at the Dunlop Mill, 220 Straight Street, is charged in a public statement given out last week by the strike committee of the Associated Silk Workers.

The men arrested were brought before Recorder Joelson yesterday, charged with "disorderly conduct." They had refused to change the formation of their picket line at the direction of a policeman. Police on the witness stand admitted that there had been no disorder at the scene of the arrests. Recorder Joelson dismissed all of the cases except two, and gave those suspended sentences. In doing so he stated that no law existed making picketing illegal. The strike committee characterized his action "a virtual vindication of the peaceful pickets."

During the past few days, the strike committee states, pickets have been meeting increasing interference from the police. Threats of violence to peaceful pickets, attempts to break up picket lines, and arbitrary orders to change picketing procedure in unimportant ways, on lines where no disorder existed, have occurred. The statement cites the following instances:

On Monday at the Herman Silk Company, 65 Mill Street, a picket line of 50 reported. Officer 146 brandished a club as the line started to form and announced that he would have no picket lines on that sidewalk, saying he "would break their heads open" if they formed on the walk.

The line broke up and left, but the picket captain remained, alone, saying:

"What's the matter, officer? Is there anything wrong with the line? There's no disorder here."

"If you say as much as 'yes' to me I'll split your head open right now," yelled the officer, lifting his blackjack over the picket captain's head. No further discussion was had.

Tuesday in the same place a sergeant and a patrolman—No. 61—came up in a car as 14 pickets were walking up and down on the sidewalk in front of the shop. They ordered the picket line to walk the whole length of the block, and to cross the street each time they reached the end of the block, returning on the opposite sidewalk, across the street from the shop.

The pickets refused to do this, pointing out that such a procedure would block automobile traffic, and that they did not wish to picket the property of anyone not connected with the strike. Threatened with arrest, they said that they were not afraid to go to court on the issue. To further threats they replied that Chief Tracy had stated that peaceful picket-

ing would not be interfered with, and pointed out that the officer was acting illegally, and in violation of this policy laid down by the chief. The sergeant—whose number was not obtained—replied:

"I don't give a — for Chief Tracy. I'm making my own law around here."

However, in this as in some other instances, the police left without doing anything when the strikers stood firm.

In another case a policeman told pickets: "You're getting it easy now; just wait and see what you'll get in a week or two!"

The strike committee's statement says:

"This attitude on the part of the police shows a desire to bully the pickets rather than to accomplish any particular end. It certainly is not in line with Chief Tracy's statement at the outset of the strike that the police would treat both sides impartially. At the beginning of the strike no effort was made by the police to discriminate against us. We ask a statement from Chief Tracy letting us and the public know where he stands. If the policy he at first announced toward the strike has been changed, we have a right to know it.

For our part, we stand on Judge Joelson's declaration that peaceful picketing is lawful. We will continue to picket every struck mill as often and as heavily as necessary. We will continue to see that our pickets are orderly and peaceful. We are not going to allow the police to turn pickets away from the striking shops and set them to picketing vacant lots, residences, or business places not on strike. And if the police see fit to arrest us for exercising our legal rights, we will fight the issues through in the courts."

## Annual Unity Reunion Notice

This year we are fortunate in having an exceptional active committee in charge of arrangements of the Unity Reunion Dance, which will be held on Saturday evening, February 2nd, 1929, in the Grand Ballroom of the Manhattan Opera House.

All New York local unions of the I. L. G. W. U. responded to our request and elected committees from their executive boards to work together with the Reunion Arrangements Committee.

The Committee announces that it would be glad to add to its personnel such members as are interested in making this affair a success. They may apply for this purpose to the Educational Department, 3 West 16th Street, or call Chelsea 2148.

Detailed announcements concerning the Reunion Dance will appear in next issue of "Justice."

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## With the New York Dressmakers

By J. SPIELMAN, Secretary

The protracted absence of our customary reports from the columns of "Justice" was not due to the fact that we did not have anything to report. On the contrary, a number of interesting events have transpired in our local during the last few months. We, however, chose to take up these matters directly with the members at the meetings of the union before discussing them in our official publications.

What is it that has occupied the minds of the Executive Board during the last few months? The answer to this question is: the existence and progress of our organization. Let us explain a little more fully what we mean by it.

The internal struggle within our organization, caused by the Communist adventure, has admittedly weakened us. The chaos which prevails in our industry as a result of the weakness of our union, and because of the many intricate evils that beset our industry, tends to make the condition of the dressmaker more intolerable from day to day. We have, in the course of the last two years, conducted several organizational campaigns; carried on a substantial propaganda among our members; agitated and exhorted the dressmakers to build up a strong union. All our efforts, however, have not yielded us much. The result is, that the union work standards in the dress industry today are gradually being weakened and the fruits of our old struggle are being lost before our own eyes.

The Executive Board of our local is giving this matter much thought and consideration. We are looking for some means whereby we might again establish some sort of order in the industry. We were looking for a basis upon which we may call a halt to the destructive competition which is sapping the strength of our members and ruining the industry. And no matter from what angle this question is approached, the conclusion is always the same. Before anything else of a constructive nature can be undertaken — we must put our own house in order, create that harmony and that solidarity without which no plan is workable.

In the course of the discussion of this vital problem, it developed that almost the entire membership of the Executive Board was of the opinion that the leadership of our International Union (until a few weeks ago) made the solidification of all the constructive elements within our union practically impossible. It appears that the Boston convention has not only failed to satisfy the hopes and aspirations of the majority of our members, but, on the contrary, to

many of us the result was very depressing and disappointing. As a result of that, and also because of the approaching expiration of our agreements with the manufacturers, the Executive Board decided to recommend to the membership that the annual election for the local administration be advanced this year by two months so that a new set of members, with new energy and willingness, may take the place of those who are physically and spiritually exhausted.

For this purpose a general members' meeting was called for the 11th of October at Bryant Hall. The entire question was frankly placed before the assemblage. Let it be said here, to the credit of those who have participated in the discussions, that they have conducted themselves as befits true and loyal members of the Union, in that they did not attempt to misinterpret the recommendation of the Executive Board, but, on the contrary, realized the straightforwardness and sincerity with which the Executive Board treated the entire problem and practically unanimously approved the recommendation for an early election.

On the 18th of October another general member meeting was held for the purpose of nominating candidates for the Executive Board, Business Agents, Manager, and Relief Committee. This meeting, as well as the first meeting, was well attended. A splendid spirit was manifested by those present, with the result — that both meetings have turned out to be a wonderful demonstration for our union.

Over ninety candidates were nominated for members to the Executive Board and a score or more for the other offices.

The Election and Objection Committee soon proceeded with the examination of the candidates, which required several sessions. No sooner was the committee done with its work, and before the day of the balloting was designated, than Secretary Baroff appeared before the meeting of the Executive Board and requested in the name of President Schlesinger, that we defer the elections temporarily. The Executive Board acceded to the request.

Since Brother Baroff's appearance at the above-mentioned meeting, a similar request was made upon all 12 affiliated locals of the New York Joint Board, with the result that all nominations and elections have temporarily been postponed. This, then, the reason why, in spite of all the preparations that had been made in our local, the elections have not yet been held.

In connection with the recommendation of the Executive Board for the election of a new local administration, a very open-hearted discussion developed at the October 11th general members' meeting concerning the general situation in our Union. Among those who participated in the discussion were a number of shop chairmen of the larger shops, as well as several other active members who are holding no office. This discussion, of course, afforded an opportunity to some of the members of the present Executive Board to explain more specifically the reasons which have prompted the Executive Board to demand an early election. There were a few speakers who thought that the weakness of the dressmakers' union is attributable to the local administration because of its lack of aggressiveness and general organization activity. Here is a fine demonstration of what may justly be called an honest-to-goodness free platform. The members of the Executive Board made no effort to evade the discus-

sion, but several of them have been its initiators. Owing to the lateness of the hour, it had been decided to call another meeting, with a view to continuing the discussion.

Such a meeting was held in the Rand School Auditorium on the 7th of November. Following the remarks of several of the members from the floor, the writer of these lines read a prepared lengthy statement upon the condition, causes, and the outlook for our union. The sum and substance of this statement was that in the present unfavorable condition of our local responsibility cannot justly be fastened upon the local administration. It is, rather, due to the general condition prevailing in the entire International Union. Local 22 is not weaker nor stronger than any of the other locals of our Union.

Brother Reisberg, the manager of the dress department, whose name has been mentioned several times in the statement of the secretary, took exception to some of the remarks contained therein and asked, in the interest of fair play, that opportunity be accorded him to reply to some of the allegations. The membership of Local 22, who are traditionally lovers of fair play and tolerance, acceded to his request and the Executive Board was instructed to call such a meeting in the very near future. Let it be said here that if it were not for Brother Reisberg's absence from the office on account of his health, such a meeting would have been held this week.

Our members will be interested to know that as regards the expiration of our agreements with the dress employers, the matter is being properly handled by the proper departments. Several conferences have been held with the representatives of the employers, at which the International, the Joint Board, and all the locals concerned were directly represented. Just as soon as Brother Schlesinger returns from the convention of the American Federation of Labor the conferences will be resumed. We hope to be in a position to report something of a tangible nature about it in the forthcoming issues of "Justice".

We believe that a word of caution to the shop chairmen and price committees at this time will not be out of place. The spring season is fast approaching and it will not be long before our members will be back at work. It is now, more than ever before, absolutely necessary that price committees be on guard, so that prices will be settled at not less than the minimum union scales and all our members may be reasonably assured of earning a fair week's wages.

If your shop has not held a meeting lately, it is suggested that such a meeting be called, and if you have any sort of dispute at all regarding prices, or any other matter in need of adjustment, it is suggested that you call at the office of the dress department.

Both our local, as well as the dress department, is determined to see that union standards are maintained in the industry.

## Union Labor Life Devises New Policy for Smaller Local Unions

A new and approved group life insurance policy has just been developed by The Union Labor Life Insurance Company for the benefit of smaller local unions which are affiliated to national and international unions.

Announcement to this effect has been made by President Matthew Woll of the company. At the same time President Woll announced that the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Motion Picture Operators had taken the first of the new policies, and the policy had already been presented to President William F. Canavan of that organization.

Under the new form of policy it is possible for a national or international union to sign a contract stipulating that group insurance will be provided for such locals as may desire such insurance. One of the particular benefits lies in the fact that local unions too small to secure group insurance by themselves can now have the benefits of that form of insurance.

"The Union Labor Life Insurance Company is constantly forging ahead," said President Woll, presenting the new contract to President Canavan, "ever developing new plans and forms of benefits for the trade unions and the individual wage earners. Until recently it was difficult for The Union Labor Life Insurance Company to provide trade union group insurance for the smaller local unions or a national or international union. The International Alliance of Theatrical Employees and Motion Picture Operators was the first international union to enter into this arrangement. This event, the making of this new agreement, marks another step in the rapidly rising fortunes of labor's latest great institution, The Union Labor Life Insurance Company."

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## Buy Union Stamped Shoes

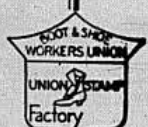
We ask all members of organized labor to purchase shoes bearing our Union Stamp on the sole, inner-sole or lining of the shoe. We ask you not to buy any shoes unless you actually see this Union Stamp.

## Boot & Shoe Workers' Union

Affiliated with the American Federation of Labor  
244 SUMMER STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

COLLIN LOVELY  
General President

CHARLES L. BAINE  
General Secretary-Treasurer





## Two Weeks In Local 10

The establishment of a permanent Old Age Fund, as recommended by the Constitution Committee, was adopted almost unanimously at a meeting attended by several hundred members, held last Monday night. This plan includes an annual tax of \$1.00 on the membership which is to go into effect in the beginning of the coming year.

Amendments to the Constitution, a report by the manager, and the reading of the minutes pertaining to the reinstatement of Alexander Bloch, a former member and officer of Local 10, were the main topics of discussion at that general member meeting.

The order of business also included nomination for officers and the election of an election board. The discussion of the first three topics, however, consumed practically the entire evening, and as a result of this the members unanimously decided to call another meeting for the special purpose of nominating officers and the selection of an election board.

The minutes of the Executive Board contained a letter received by Local 10, from Alexander Bloch, who at one time played a very prominent role in our organization, with a request that

he be readmitted in Local 10. The recommendation of the Executive Board regarding this case provoked considerable discussion. Some of the members were dissatisfied with the restrictions imposed by the Executive Board in this case. After a lengthy discussion, however, the recommendation of the Executive Board was overwhelmingly accepted by the body.

The Communists, maddened by the success and solid condition of our local, reported the other day in the Communist Jewish daily, that only forty-five people were present at our last general member meeting. The several hundred members who were present at that meeting may now realize to what an extent the Communists have degenerated. We are mentioning this petty item to indicate to our members how their peace of mind is sadly disturbed by the successful work of our organization.

We are printing below a statement of our receipts and disbursements for the period from April 1, 1927, to December 31, 1927, a period of nine months during the last year up to January 1, 1928.

### Statement of Receipts and Disbursements

Overdrawn—April 1, 1927 ..... \$ 1,605.31

#### Receipts:

Dues .....	\$17,825.80
Books .....	352.25
Sanatorium Assessment .....	1,592.75
Chicago Assessment .....	17.00
1922 Convention Assessment .....	16.00
1925 International Assessment .....	326.00
Joint Board 1926 Tax .....	\$3,330.00
Ball Tax (1925) .....	12.00
Ball Tax (1926) .....	56.50
Application and Reinstatement Fee ..	\$153.60
Fines .....	970.00
Non-Attendance Meeting Fines .....	48.00
Lost Book Charges .....	13.00
Back Pay Collected .....	1,656.50
Medical Fees .....	226.00
Jubilee Tax .....	2,182.00
Interest on Bonds .....	1,140.00
Miscellaneous Income .....	17.00

#### Refunds:

Organization Expenses .....	\$ 250.00
Members Loans—Revolving Fund ..	1.00
History Expenses .....	3.00
Services Rendered .....	20.08
Funeral Expenses .....	5.40
Interest (Check Cancelled) .....	32.50
Printing .....	3.50
Telephone .....	1.60
Org. Expenses (Check Cancelled) ..	250.00
Salaries .....	107.00

#### Bonds Sold:

Westinghouse Bldg. (\$10,000) .....	9,940.00
Mercantile Arcade (\$2,000) .....	1,890.00
International Union Bank Shares (4 Shares @ \$290) .....	1,160.00
Relief Fund .....	5.00
Securities Received .....	20.00
Loans Returned—Members .....	1,557.68
Notes Payable—Bank of U. S. ....	3,900.00
Raffle Tickets Sold—to Apply on Loan of L. Schwartz .....	62.00
Raffle Tickets .....	10.00
Banquet Tickets—25th Anniversary ..	30.00
Banquet Pictures—25th Anniversary ..	22.00
Flowers—25th Anniversary .....	29.00
Histories Sold .....	15.00
Banquet—Printing (Check Cancelled) ..	717.50
Donation (Check Cancelled) .....	25.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS ..... 90,182.66

#### Disbursements:

Per Capita to International and Joint Board .....	17,050.00
Joint Board—Initiation Fee .....	100.00
Dues to Other Organizations .....	31.50
Salaries .....	17,478.33
Extra Clerical Help and Overtime ..	541.61

Rent—Office .....	1,750.00
Printing .....	414.86
Stationery .....	132.75
Postage .....	515.81
Towel Supply .....	20.30
Electric Supply .....	158.98
Telephones and Telegrams .....	714.07
Water and Ice .....	79.60
Supplies from International .....	40.60
Cleaning .....	135.00
Interest on Loans .....	301.73
Repairs .....	76.10
Funeral Expenses .....	21.00
Flowers .....	25.00
Insurance .....	100.17
Clippings .....	49.00
Carfares .....	27.20
Gifts .....	30.00
Miscellaneous Expenses .....	122.65

22,735.39

Business Agents' Salaries .....	10,571.00
Services Rendered (Controlling Investigators, Committees, etc.) ..	2,119.32
Hall Rent .....	422.25
Advertising .....	141.10
Printing .....	39.00
Salaries of Local Officers .....	350.00
Organization Expenses .....	1,950.00
Miscellaneous Expenses .....	657.17

16,509.85

Executive Board .....	1,318.00
Examination Committee .....	81.00
Joint Board Delegates .....	421.00
Membership Committee .....	32.00
Judiciary Committee .....	14.00
Election Committee .....	204.00
Delegates to Central Trades .....	86.00
Delegates to Unity House .....	24.00
Delegates to Pioneer Camp .....	30.00
Delegates to Phila. Cutters' Affair ..	90.00
Miscellaneous .....	38.00

2,338.00

Donations to Organizations .....	406.40
Tickets and Ads .....	393.00
Christmas Gifts .....	150.00
Death Benefit .....	100.00
Tuberculosis Benefit .....	500.00
Strike Benefit .....	193.00

1,742.40

25th Anniversary Celebration .....	1,125.30
Local 10 History Expense .....	4,662.65

5,788.95

25th Anniversary Celebration—Printing, Check Cancelled (See Receipts) .....	717.50
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#### Refunds:

Lost Book Charge .....	\$ 1.00
Banquet Tickets .....	45.00
Application Fee .....	20.00
Fines .....	180.00
Dues .....	12.50
Joint Board 1926 Tax Refund .....	3,780.00
Sanatorium Assessment .....	.25
Jubilee Assessment .....	1.00
Medical Fee—Union Health Center ..	57.00
Relief Fund .....	575.00
N. G. Checks—Written Off .....	71.85
Back Pay—Paid Out .....	1,721.50
Loans Given—J. B. Sanitary Control ..	700.00
Loans Given—Members .....	1,015.08
Securities Returned .....	190.00
Deposit on Hall—1928 Ball .....	50.00
Raffle Tickets .....	10.00
Joint Board Revolving Fund .....	1,900.00
Notes Payable—Intl. Union Bank .....	11,000.00
Notes Payable—Bank of U. S. ....	2,000.00
Advance for Theatre Tickets .....	100.00
Unemployment Relief Checks .....	187.00
Paid on a/c Amalg. Bank Loan (J. B. Strike) .....	160.00

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS ..... \$39,690.93

Overdrawn December 31, 1927... \$ 1,113.63

## Cutters' Union Local 10!

The Next Regular and Special Meeting Will Be Held Monday

December 10, 1928

ARLINGTON HALL, 23 ST. MARKS PLACE  
at 7:30 P. M. Sharp

ACCORDING TO THE DECISION ADOPTED AT THE LAST MEMBER MEETING, A SPECIAL MEETING FOR NOMINATION OF OFFICERS AND SELECTION OF AN ELECTION BOARD WILL BE CALLED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS NEXT MEETING, WHICH WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT, NOVEMBER 28, WILL SET A DEFINITE DATE.